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Structure of the Commercial Undertakings in Lithuania Major and its Development from 1929—1937.

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	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Total number of trade licences	22 429	22 652	22 767	21 505	20 793	20 177	21 981	23 313	24 380
I. Commercial Concerns in a narrower sense	18 018	18 132	17 945	16 937	17 069	16 132	17 056	17 336	18 108
II. Hawker's trade	719	641	535	710	222	496	1 640	2 257	2 135
III. Auxiliary branches of trade (middlemen, &c.)	496	514	746	601	544	600	559	786	907
IV. Hotel Business	2 556	2 693	2 831	2 604	2 283	2 094	1 970	2 055	2 301
V. Credit and Insurance	102	100	90	91	83	78	74	147	149
VI. Other Commercial Undertakings	538	572	620	562	592	597	682	732	780

The figures quoted under paragraph 1, segregated in this manner, of commercial concerns in a narrower sense, depict more accurately the development tendency of our home-trade than the amounts of all trade-licences. Through the segregation of the hawker's trade, the misleading operation of the tax law variations is to a large extent, if not entirely, eliminated. Classified according to categories, the development of commercial concerns in a narrower sense appears as under:

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Year	Total	Wholesale Trade (I. & II. Corp.)	Large-scale Retail Trade (III. Corp.)	Small-scale Retail Trade (IV. & V. Corp.)
1929	18 018	3 297	10.958	3 763
1930	18 132	3 179	11 045	3 908
1931	17 945	3 208	10 933	3 804
1932	16 937	2 830	10 760	3 347
1933	17 069	2 481	10 500	4 088
1934	16 132	2 284	10 288	3 740
1935	17 056	2 182	9 852	5 022
1936	17 336	2 220	9 834	5 282
1937	18 108	2 273	10 172	5 663

As regards, in the first place, the last column relating to small-scale retail trade, the fluctuations from 1932—1934 were elicited by transitory statistical-technical difficulties in the separation of the hawker's trade, and for that reason possess no contingent significance. The same remark applies to the buoyant growth in 1935, which is attributable to the augmentation of the patent duty. The two remaining sets of figures regarding wholesale and large-scale retail trade indicate, despite a slight rise, particularly in 1937, a recession, which in comparison with 1929 amounts to 32.8% for wholesale trade, and to 7.2% for large-scale retail trade.

The circumstance that the number of wholesale commercial undertakings has suffered a decidedly more severe percentage recession than that of the large-scale retail concerns, proves that the shrinkage of promotion initiative in the framework of our home-trade cannot be interpreted as a consequence of the general concentration process of wholesale commercial undertakings at the cost of large-scale and small-scale retail trade, as in a certain sense it makes itself observable in the sphere of industry. The total of industrial concerns moreover shows no recession, but on the contrary a steady growth. In the framework of the total number, only the wholesale concerns are growing horizontally and vertically more rapidly than the small-scale retail ones. The dynamic of the development of our home-trade is, however, a diametrically opposite one: the total number of undertakings declines; the small-scale retail concerns show, after rectification of the statistical distortion in 1935-6, even a slight growth. Large-scale retail trade is receding only negligibly; and the number of wholesale commercial undertakings is shrinking most sharply. It may also be not uninteresting in this connexion to compare the figures of the complete categories of commercial and industrial trade licences with one another. This comparison gives the following characteristic result:

	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Wholesale Industrial Undertakings (I.—V. Class)	241	263	271	251	246	256	272	349	406
In %	100	109	112	104	102	106	113	145	168
Wholesale Commercial Undertakings (I.—II. Corp.)	3 297	3 179	3 208	2 830	2 481	2 284	2 182	2 220	2 273
In %	100	96	97	86	75	69	66	67	69